

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
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R 141301Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3067
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION NATO
AMMEBASSY PARIS 4782
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BERN
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CI UR
SUBJECT: BUKOVSKIY-CORVALAN EXCHANGE: SOVIET HANDLING WESTERN-
INFLUENCED PUBLIC

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. BUKOVSKIY-CORVALAN EXCHANGE RECEIVED
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AT ZNANIYE SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURE
JAN 12, WITH SUBJECT TREATED MORE EXTENSIVELY AND
DIFFERENTLY FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE IN PUBLIC.
NEVERTHELESS, IN PREPARED REMARKS AND IN QUESTION PERIOD,
SPEAKERS STEADFASTLY DENIED THAT AN "EXCHANGE" HAD TAKEN
PLACE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN APPARENT ANTICIPATION OF QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE,
NOVOSTI CORRESPONDENTS ON STAGE COVERED BUKOVSKIY-CORVALAN
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AFFAIR IN PREPARED REMARKS PRIOR TO Q-AND-A SESSION.
THEIR LINE WAS THAT TIMING OF RELEASE OF TWO MEN WAS
STRICTLY "COINCIDENCE". "IT WAS NOT", SAID ONE SPEAKER,
"AN EXCHANGE OF ONE POLITICAL PRISONER FOR ANOTHER
POLITICAL PRISONER." TO SUPPORT ASSERTION, SPEAKERS
ARGUED THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOVIET
UNION AND THAT BUKOVSKIY HAD DISOBEYED SOVIET LAW AND

WAS LIABLE TO IMPRISONMENT SINCE IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT SOCIETY FROM HIS "CRIMINAL ACTS." BUKOVSKIY WAS ENGAGED IN TERRORISM AND HAD LINKS TO INFAMOUS, ANTI-SOVIET, EMIGRE, TERRORIST GROUP, NTS. EXPLANATION, WHILE DETAILED ABOUT WHY BUKOVSKIY WAS JAILED, FAILED TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF WHY HE WAS RELEASED.

3. AS IS PRACTICE AT SUCH LECTURES A NUMBER OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE PASSED UP ANONOMOUSLY TO SPEAKERS; SEVERAL DEALT WITH BUKOVSKIY AND CORVALAN. ONE ASKED WHY BUKOVSKIY WAS RELEASED AND WHY BOTH MEN USED SAME PLANE FOR TRANSPORT IF THERE WAS NO EXCHANGE. SPEAKER EXPLAINED USE OF SAME PLANE WAS "COINCIDENCE" AND IGNORED FIRST HALF OF QUESTION, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON BUKOVSKIY AS CRIMINAL WHO HAD "PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS" AND AGAIN ATTACKING NTS.

4. ANOTHER QUESTION ASKED WHY MARCHAIS AND PCF DENOUNCED SOVIETS FOR HAVING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND FOR EXCHANGING POLITICAL PRISONERS WITH FASCIST CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, IF BUKOVSKIY WAS NOT A POLITICAL PRISONER. SPEAKER REITERATED THAT NO EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AND THAT WHILE MARCHAIS AND PCF COULD EXPRESS THEIR OWN OPINIONS, IT WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE; THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOVIET UNION.

5. ASKED WHY SOVIETS WORKED TO FREE CORVALAN, SPEAKERS ARGUED THAT SOVIET EFFORT WAS HUMANITARIAN ATTEMPT TO SAVE LIFE OF FELLOW COMMUNIST WHO WOULD HAVE DIED AT HANDS OF FASCIST CAPTORS. SOVIET UNION DID NOT DEAL WITH CHILE DIRECTLY AND DID NOT BARGAIN TO EXCHANGE CORVALAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR BUKOVSKIY.

6. COMMENT. AUDIENCES AT THESE LECUTURES GENERALLY SHOW BY THEIR QUESTIONS AND THEIR GENERAL RESPONSE THAT THEY LISTEN TO WESTERN RADIO BROADCASTS AND ARE NOT EASILY SATIFIED BY STANDARD PRAVDA PAP. IN THIS CASE, AS IN OTHERS, POLISHED PERFORMANCE OF SPEAKERS--WHO OBVIOUSLY CAME PREPARED TO DEAL WITH WESTERN INFORMATION ABOUT EXCHANGE--UNDOUBTEDLY DID NOT SATISFY THE SKEPTICAL, BUT GAVE TO THOSE LOOKING FOR AN ACCEPTABLE LINE THE BEST ONE AVAILABLE.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LECTURERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRISONERS RELEASE, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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